

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE:

SUBJECT Printing of Currency in the Russian Zone

INFO.

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DIST.

22 September 1947

PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

1. Giesecke and Devrient, a printing firm in Leipzig, during the years 1945 and 1946 printed no German or foreign money. This lack of production was caused by the departure of the guillocheur. Only one, two, and five mark bills could be produced, since these were printed by a simple offset method. 25X1

[Redacted]

2. The present production at Giesecke and Devrient consists mainly of postage stamps (Messe-Briefmarken), which are being sold at higher prices than the actual mailing value. The profit from the sale, which amounted to four million RM in 1946, is used to finance the Leipzig fairs.
3. At the beginning of October 1946, the Russians instructed Giesecke and Devrient to begin printing Allied marks as soon as possible. By the end of November the plates had been engraved and the printing could have commenced, but the Russians rescinded their order. Since then, the plates have been kept in a locked and guarded safe.

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[Redacted]

4. Schiller Giesecke of the Giesecke and Devrient firm was jailed by the Russians (date unknown). [Redacted] his crime was knowing too much, particularly that the Russians intended to print dollar notes on a "Stahlstich-Kupfertiefdruck-Rotations-Maschine." [Redacted] stated that this machine was dismantled and shipped to Russia at the beginning of July 1947.

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